In the Claims:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the sequence of F_1 corresponds to a ~~segment~~ sequence of amino acid residues ~~from~~ present within N-terminal residues 1-10 of SCF (SEQ ID NO:1)[[,]]; F_2 corresponds to a ~~segment~~ sequence of amino acid residues ~~from~~ present within residues 79-95 of SCF, and the sequence of F_3 corresponds to a ~~segment~~ sequence of amino acid residues ~~located~~ present within three amino acid residues of amino acid residue 127 of SCF[[,]]; and ~~where, in X_n, X_m, and X_p respectively,~~ wherein n=0-5, m=0-5 and p=3-8 ~~amino acid residues~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein each of F_1, F_2, and F_3 ~~have~~ has been selected by bacterial phage display for optimal receptor binding.

23-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the organic polymer is polyethyleneglycol (PEG) comprising the structure $H[OCH_2CH_2]_nOH$, wherein n is an integer from 10[[-]] to 20.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the capping moiety is a thiol-reactive group.

28-47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for designing~~ of preparing a

compound capable of binding to a Stem Cell Factor-binding site of a ~~Kit receptor~~ Stem Cell Factor receptor comprising the steps of:

a) determining the 3-D structure of a fragment of a Stem Cell Factor (SCF) by computing atomic co-ordinates from X-ray diffraction data of a crystal of the fragment of SCF, wherein the fragment of SCF consists of consecutive amino acids the sequence of which is set forth in SEQ ID NO:1;

b) ~~determining a Kit receptor~~ identifying a Stem Cell Factor receptor-binding site on the fragment of SCF based on the 3-D structure of the SCF fragment; ~~and~~

c) ~~and~~ designing a compound capable of binding to the Stem Cell Factor-binding site of the Stem Cell Factor receptor ~~of the Kit receptor~~ based on a 3-D structure shape complementarity or estimated interaction energy of the Stem Cell Factor receptor-binding site on the fragment of SCF; and

d) preparing the compound capable of binding to the Stem Cell Factor-binding site of the Stem Cell Factor receptor designed in step (c).

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the ~~designed~~ compound capable of binding to a ~~Kit~~ Stem Cell Factor receptor comprises two ligand heads linked by a linker molecule, wherein the linker molecule is an organic polymer attached at each end to a separate capping moiety,

each capping moiety attached in turn to a single ligand head via a cysteine residue, wherein the ligand head comprises the elements F_1-X_n-F_L(Cys)-X_m-F_2-X_p-F_3, wherein each of F_1, F_2 and F_3 ~~are~~ is a peptide ~~peptides~~ each comprising consecutive amino ~~acid sequences~~ acids having a sequence corresponding to a sequence of consecutive amino acid residues of Stem Cell Factor (SCF) (SEQ ID NO:1) [[,]]; each of X_n, X_m, and X_p ~~are~~ is a peptide ~~peptides~~ of n, m, and p amino acid residues, respectively where each of n, m, and p is an integer representing a number of amino acid residues[[,]]; F_L (Cys) is the cysteine residue; and each dash (-) represents ~~element is linked to the next via~~ a peptide bond.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the thiol-reactive group is N-ethyl malemide.